

ATLAS
Mystery Tales

MAR.
NO.
18

CONTAINS
A
★



"THE
GRAVEYARD!"



"IN THE 4TH
DIMENSION!"



"MISSING
PERSONS!"



10¢

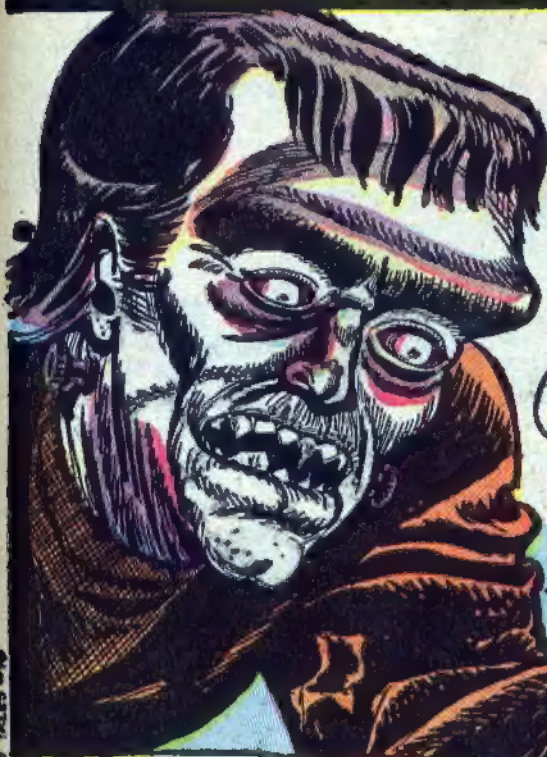
MYSTERY TALES

WHAT NAMELESS HORROR
LURKS IN...
"THE DUNGEON!"



GREETINGS, BOYS AND GHOULS! WE'RE STARTING OFF OUR FEARFUL FIVESOME WITH AN OLD FRIEND OF OURS...THE MONSTER CREATED BY OLD DOC. FRANKENSTEIN! THERE'S A TWIST TO THIS WEIRDIE THAT'LL SHOCK YOU-ALL!

THE LONELY DUNGEON



HE TOLD ME HE'D FIND PROOF HERE THAT MY THEORY IS RIGHT! NOW I'LL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE WORLD THAT DR. FRANKENSTEIN COULD **NEVER** HAVE CREATED THE MONSTER!

BURT REGAN WAS A NEWSPAPER MAN OF GREAT PROMISE! AT THE EARLY AGE OF TWENTY-FOUR HE HAD ALREADY BEEN AWARDED A PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING JOURNALISM...AND HE WAS CONSIDERED BY MANY THE FOREMOST EXPERT ON THE FRANKENSTEIN MURDERS...UNTIL THE TIME HE CAME UP WITH A NEW THEORY!

A
**MYSTERY
TALE**
TO SHOCK YOUR
SENSES!

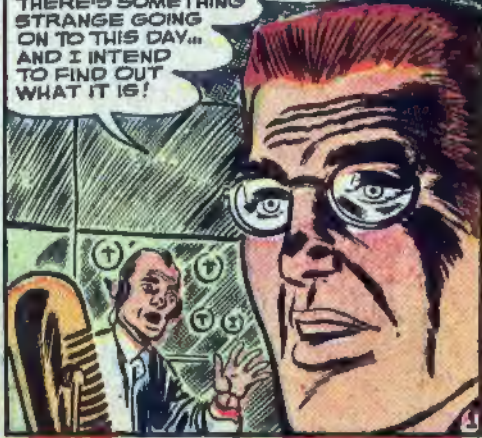
D602

AT THE RADIO STATION WGBZ IN NEW YORK, A NEWS COMMENTATOR WAS SITTING AT HIS MICROPHONE, AND WHEN THE RED LIGHT FLASHED...ON THE AIR! HE SHOCKED THE LISTENING WORLD BY SAYING...

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...I AM KNOWN ALL THROUGH THE WORLD AS AN EXPERT ON THE CREATURE THAT HAS BEEN KNOWN AS THE "FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER"! NOW I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE! FRANKENSTEIN **NEVER** CREATED THE MONSTER!



I'VE HEARD REPORTS FROM AUSTRIA THAT INDICATE THE WHOLE THING WAS MADE TO APPEAR THAT WAY FOR SOME STRANGE REASON! THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON TO THIS DAY... AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!



AFTER THE BROADCAST, BURT REGAN WENT BACK TO HIS QUIET APARTMENT AND RESUMED HIS RESEARCH ON THE CASE THAT SEEMED TO HAUNT HIM NIGHT AND DAY! THE FRANKENSTEIN STORY FASCINATED HIM MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD...

I'VE GOT TO FIND THE ANSWER! THE RUMORS THAT FRANKENSTEIN DIDN'T CREATE THE MONSTER CAME FROM EUROPE! WHY? WHY?



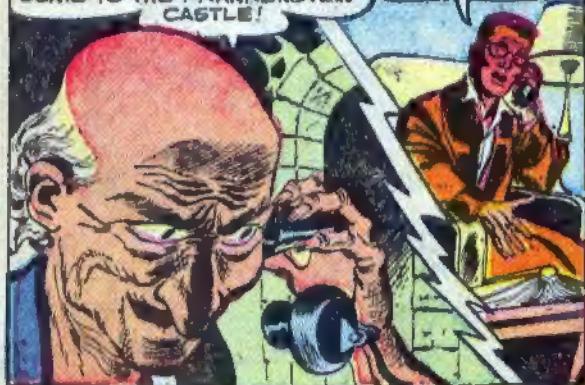
HELLO? YES, THIS IS BURT REGAN! WHAT? TRANS-ATLANTIC PHONE CALL FROM AUSTRIA? WHO WANTS TO TALK TO ME FROM AUSTRIA? IS THIS SOME KIND OF JOKE?



THE VOICE ON THE OTHER END OF THE TELEPHONE TREMBLED WITH A STRANGE HOLLOWNESS THAT SENT A CHILL DOWN REGAN'S SPINE! IT WAS A VOICE SUCH AS HE HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE...

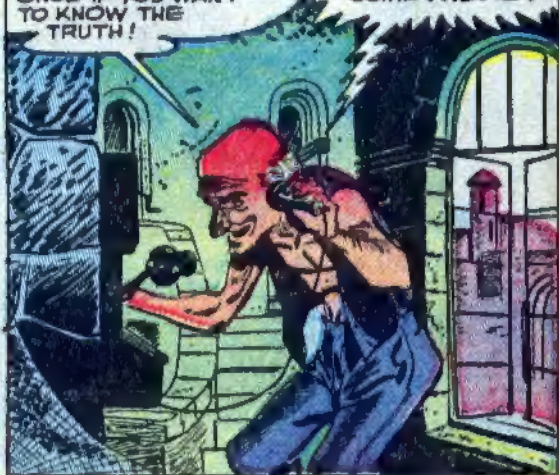
YES, MISTER REGAN, YOU'VE STUMBLED ONTO THE TRUTH! IF YOU WANT THE **WHOLE** STORY, I CAN GIVE IT TO YOU! COME TO THE FRANKENSTEIN CASTLE!

BUT WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH THIS?



I AM CARETAKER HERE, MR. REGAN, BUT THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU NOW! YOU MUST COME AT ONCE IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH!

CAN'T YOU GIVE IT TO ME OVER THE PHONE? WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO COME **THERE**?



GOOD-BYE, MR. REGAN! I'LL BE EXPECTING YOU!

HELLO! HELLO! YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME MORE! DON'T HANG UP!



REGAN'S FEELINGS WERE A MIXTURE OF EXCITEMENT AND FEAR! HE WAS ON THE BRINK OF THE GREAT STORY OF HIS LIFE... AND YET THE THOUGHT OF GOING TO THE OLD CASTLE SOMEHOW TERRIFIED HIM...

VERY STRANGE! BUT I'VE GOT TO LEARN THE TRUTH!



REGAN PUT ALL HIS AFFAIRS IN ORDER AND GOT HIS BOSS'S PERMISSION TO FOLLOW UP THE STORY! THREE DAYS LATER HE WAS ABOARD A PLANE ENROUTE TO AUSTRIA!

THAT FACE SEEMS TO HAUNT ME! I'VE MADE THE FRANKENSTEIN CASE MY LIFE'S WORK! I'VE GOT TO KNOW THE TRUTH, IF IT TAKES ME TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!



REGAN FOUND HE HAD TO WALK FROM THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN TO THE CASTLE... PEOPLE STILL FEARED TO GO NEAR THE LAND THAT ONCE BELONGED TO THE GREAT DR. FRANKENSTEIN! HE LOOKED UP AT THE TOWERS CRUMBLING WITH DRY ROT, AND AT THE TURRETS SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE MOON...

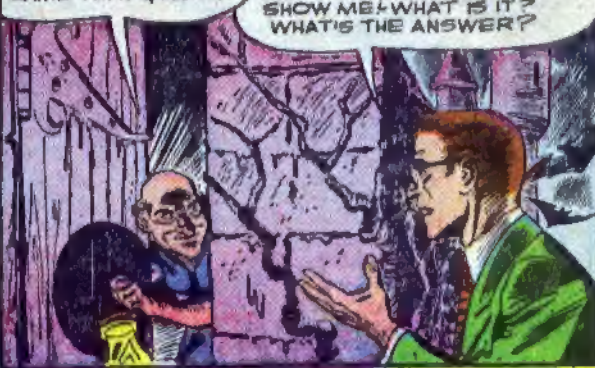
THIS PLACE HOLDS THE SECRET OF HUMAN CREATION! I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT!



THE PATH TO THE GATE WAS OVERGROWN WITH WEEDS AND TWISTED VINES SO DENSE, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY WERE TRYING TO HOLD HIM BACK! BUT FINALLY HE REACHED THE HUGE DOORWAY...

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, MR. REGAN! YOU CAME VERY QUICKLY!

I WAS ANXIOUS TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS CASE! YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO SHOW ME—WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE ANSWER?



NOW, NOW... DON'T BE NASTY! THERE'S PLENTY OF TIME... AND YOU SHALL BE MY GUEST FOR A WHILE!

WELL, I DON'T HAVE TOO MUCH TIME! I'VE JUST COME TO GET THE FACTS AND THEN GO BACK TO THE STATES AND GIVE THEM TO THE WORLD!



THE OLD CARETAKER AVOIDED ANSWERING ANY MORE QUESTIONS... HE INSISTED THAT REGAN JOIN HIM FIRST FOR DINNER, IN ONE OF THE ANCIENT DINING HALLS...

I SUPPOSE THE FIRST THING YOU WANT TO KNOW IS WHO I AM, AND WHAT I AM DOING HERE! WELL, I'VE BEEN THE CARETAKER HERE FOR A LONG TIME! I WAS THE ONE THEY CALLED IN TO GIVE EVIDENCE AT THE INQUISITION...

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO SEE THE FRANKENSTEIN LABORATORIES!



THE OLD MAN LED HIM DEEP INTO THE HEART OF THE HUGE CASTLE, DARK AND FOREBODING, FILLED WITH THE ODOR OF DAMP ROT...



THROUGH A NETWORK OF PASSAGEWAYS THAT TWISTED LIKE AN ENDLESS MAZE IN WHICH A STRANGER ALONE COULD NEVER FIND HIS WAY...



THE OLD MAN'S LANTERN CAST WEIRD, FLICKERING SHADOWS, STARTLING SLEEPING BATS INTO SUDDEN FLIGHT...



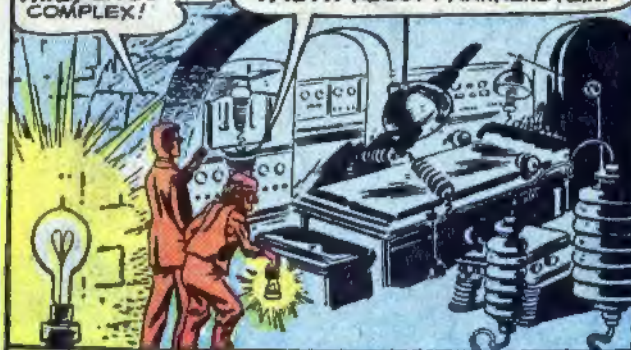
DEEPER AND DEEPER THEY WENT UNTIL THEY REACHED THE PLACE THAT HAD ONCE BEEN THE GREAT LABORATORY... A HUGE HIDDEN DUNGEON...



THE LABORATORY WAS A GIGANTIC MASS OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT! REGAN SHUDDERED AS HE REALIZED THAT **THIS** WAS THE PLACE WHERE THE MONSTER HAD BEEN CREATED...

GREAT SCOTT! I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS AS **BIG** AS **THIS**, OR SO COMPLEX!

YES, MR. REGAN... AND YOU WERE **RIGHT!** YOU WERE THE **FIRST** OUTSIDER TO STUMBLE ON THE **TRUTH** ABOUT FRANKENSTEIN!



THE NEWSMAN WAITED BREATHLESSLY FOR THE OLD CARETAKER TO CONTINUE! NOW AT LAST HE WOULD FIND THE ANSWER HE WAS SEEKING...

ALL THAT I HEARD WERE RUMORS THAT FRANKENSTEIN DID **NOT** CREATE THE MONSTER! IS THAT TRUE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? LOOK AT THIS TREMENDOUS EQUIPMENT! DO YOU THINK ANY HUMAN WAS CAPABLE OF HANDLING **THAT?**



BUT TELL ME...IF FRANKENSTEIN DIDN'T CREATE THE MONSTER, WHO DID? AND WHAT PART DID FRANKENSTEIN PLAY IN THIS?

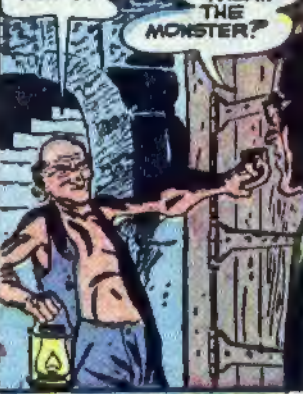
COME! I'LL SHOW YOU MORE!



THE OLD MAN PULLED AT THE RING IN THE DOOR AND IT SWUNG OPEN, CREAKING ON CORRODED HINGES...

THIS IS THE DUNGEON IN WHICH **THE THING** CREATED FROM THE DEAD WAS KEPT!

YOU MEAN THE MONSTER?



THERE WAS A SMILE TWINKLING IN THE OLD MAN'S EYES AS HE LIFTED THE LANTERN HIGH TO ILLUMINATE THE ROOM!

NO, MR. REGAN! **NOT** THE MONSTER...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO THEN? WHO IS **THAT?**



THE KEEPER STARED INTO REGAN'S EYES FOR A LONG TIME... THEN HE SHUFFLED TOWARDS THE REMAINS ON THE COT...

THIS, MR. REGAN, IS BARON VON FRANKENSTEIN! CAN YOU FIGURE OUT THE REST?

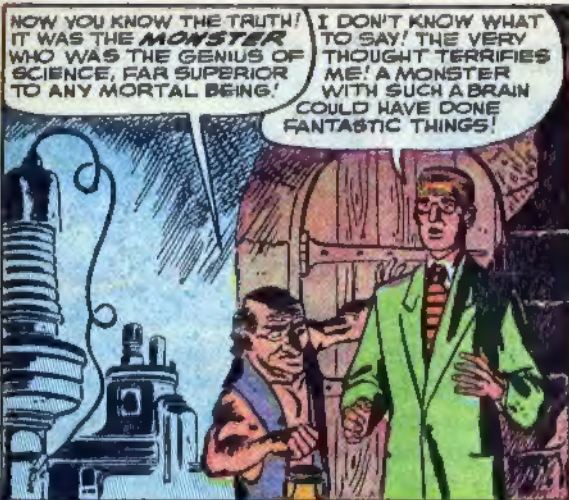
IT... IT'S INCREDIBLE! THAT COULD MEAN ONLY **ONE** THING! I ALMOST HESITATE TO SAY IT!



NOW AT LAST HE KNEW THE TRUTH, AND IT WAS ENOUGH TO DRIVE A MAN INSANE! HE FELT HIMSELF TREMBLE AS HIS LIPS BEGAN TO FORM THE WORDS...

THEN... FRANKENSTEIN NEVER MADE THE MONSTER! IT WAS **THE MONSTER** THAT **CREATED** FRANKENSTEIN!





REGAN SUDDENLY WANTED TO BE FAR AWAY FROM THE ISOLATED CASTLE! HE FELT ITS EVIL IN THE AIR, PRESSING CLOSER UPON HIM!



FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER



PERIL FROM THE CAVE

VICTOR MASON quietly puffed at his pipe. Around him were dozens of men, babbling incoherently, telling their story. Victor smiled and looked at Kurt, the man with whom he had come to Borneo for a hunting expedition, and who—through his charm—had captured the confidence of the village natives. He listened to their problems, and helped them in every way he could.

But now Kurt did not look as patient as he had these last few months, for the story he managed to put together from the words being shouted by the frenzied natives, was one he had heard many times before.

"Water black," one native screamed, "men swallowed up by water." Then he threw his arms above him in his fright.

After Kurt and Victor managed to quiet the natives, they went to their hut in thoughtful silence. It was Victor who spoke first.

"Look, Kurt, there's got to be something to their story. Men just don't dive for pearls and disappear. There haven't been any man-eating sharks in those waters, so that couldn't be the answer. The blackness of the water indicates something strange . . . those natives aren't telling lies . . . you could see the terror in their eyes as they spoke."

"Listen, Mason," Kurt

scowled, "they must be imagining things. The dark patches must be coral reefs deep down in the water, and it's absolutely impossible that the missing men would just disappear. They probably never even went into that water . . . I think the natives are just taking advantage of the patience I've had with them. They're trying to frighten us into staying here to solve a non-existent mystery, just because we've talked about going back home in a few weeks. If they're so frightened, why don't they just stop diving for pearls? There's nothing to it, believe me."

"You know that they make their livings from pearl-diving" said Victor. "You can't expect them to stop, even in the face of such terrible danger. I think that before we make final plans to leave, we ought to look into the problem and see what we can find out."

The two men discussed this for long hours, and after Victor made a promise that he would give up the idea and leave if they didn't find anything in their first attempt at solving the mystery of the dark water, Kurt agreed to set up a crew of natives to take them out to the Cape, where the reports had originated.

Victor Mason had done some deep-sea diving off the Florida coast years before, and he felt

he knew more about it than Kurt, so it was he who struggled into the diving suit a week later.

When they reached the designated point in the Cape waters, the three native guides were nervous. They whispered to each other, their eyes wide with fear, hardly able to help in the preparations for Victor's dive.

Just before Victor motioned to have the helmet slipped over his head, he smiled at Kurt, even though inwardly he was filled with fear! But he knew that he HAD to know the truth. Just as he was about to dive one of the natives grasped his arm, and looked directly at him. He whispered, "You . . . careful . . . you come back . . . kill . . . kill what kills native . . ."

He slipped down the side of the craft, into the forbidding waters.

Down, down, into water that got darker and colder, only a thin air-hose between life and blackness.

The panic left him by the time he reached deep water . . . the urge to find out what it was all about took the place of fear.

What Victor spotted, there, on the floor of the ocean, almost made him think that Kurt was right . . . that the dark patches were only bits of

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT STORY...

HOW ABOUT A TRIP INTO THE FUTURE? THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING BETWEEN THE PLANETS, AND THE GUYS ARE DROPPING LIKE FLIES! GOTTA GET HELP FROM SOMEWHERE... SO THE POOR FOOLS ARE OFF...

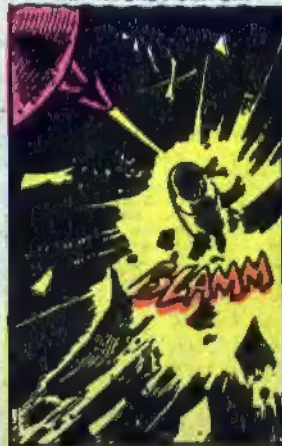
INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION

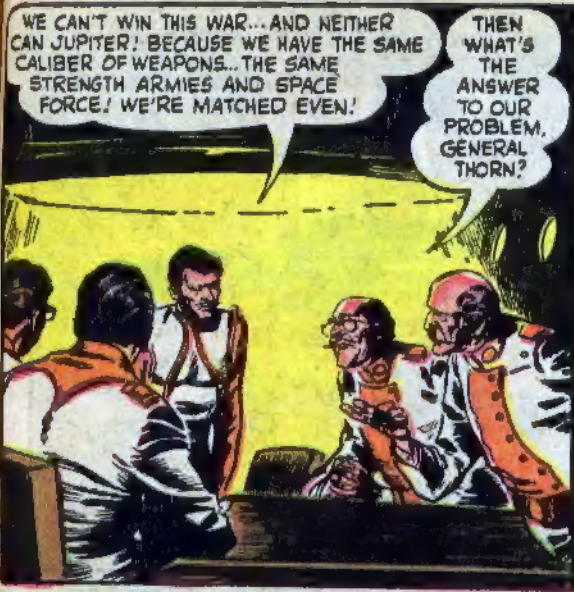


FOR EVERY INVADER THE EARTH-MEN KILL, THE JUPITERIANS SLAY AN EARTHMAN TOO...

AND FOR EVERY TERRESTRIAL SPACE SHIP THE ATTACKERS BLOW OUT OF SPACE...

THE EARTHMEN BLAST ONE OF THEIR ROCKET SHIPS...





WE CAN'T WIN THIS WAR...AND NEITHER CAN JUPITER! BECAUSE WE HAVE THE SAME CALIBER OF WEAPONS...THE SAME STRENGTH ARMIES AND SPACE FORCE! WE'RE MATCHED EVEN!

THEN WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEM, GENERAL THORN?



THE PROBLEM...AND THE ANSWER...IS THE SAME 367 MILLION MILES AWAY ON THE PLANET JUPITER...

THE ANSWER IS **NEW WEAPONS!** WE MUST DEVELOP NEW DEADLY WEAPONS TO FIT THIS WAR! ATOMICS AND H-BOMBS WERE ALL RIGHT YEARS AGO...BUT THIS IS 1992!

COMMANDER KRUK IS RIGHT! WE MUST PUT ALL OUR SCIENTISTS TO WORK ON WEAPONS WHICH WILL BREAK THIS STALEMATE WAR!

SO ALL THE SCIENTISTS OF JUPITER ARE PUT TO WORK FASHIONING NEW WEAPONS...

AND ALL THE EARTH SCIENTISTS ARE ORDERED TO DO THE SAME...

AND FOR EVERY NEW WEAPON PRODUCED BY JUPITER...

THE EARTH SCIENTISTS MATCH THEM...HORROR FOR HORROR!



SCIENTISTS ON BOTH PLANETS ARE COMMANDED TO DROP ALL OTHER PROJECTS AND TO CONCENTRATE ON NEW WEAPONS...

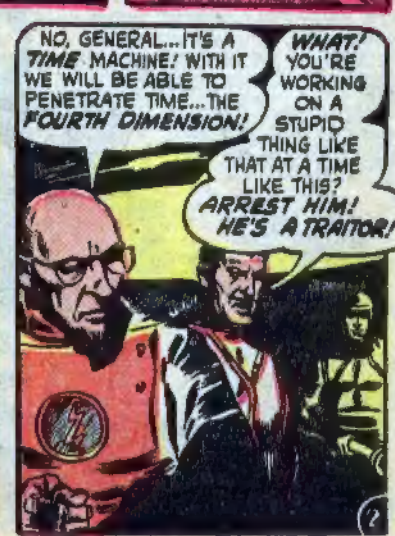


HORACE, QUICK! HIDE THAT SILLY TIME MACHINE YOU'RE WORKING ON! THE GENERAL IS INSPECTING THE LABORATORY!

I WILL NOT! MY LIFE AS A SCIENTIST IS DEDICATED TO PEACE! I REFUSE TO WORK ON WEAPONS OF WAR!



THIS LOOKS INTERESTING! WHAT IS IT? A NEW KIND OF BOMB? OR MAYBE A DISINTEGRATING RAY?



NO, GENERAL...IT'S A **TIME MACHINE!** WITH IT WE WILL BE ABLE TO PENETRATE TIME...THE **FOURTH DIMENSION!**

WHAT! YOU'RE WORKING ON A STUPID THING LIKE THAT AT A TIME LIKE THIS? **ARREST HIM! HE'S A TRAITOR!**

HORACE IS PUT INTO A CELL AND MADE AN EXAMPLE OF! AND THE SCIENTISTS OF EARTH WORK HARDER THAN EVER TO CREATE WEAPONS WHICH WIPE OUT ENTIRE ARMIES OF JUPITERIANS...



AND THE SCIENTISTS OF JUPITER INVENT WEAPONS WHICH DO THE SAME TO THE EARTH'S FORCES...



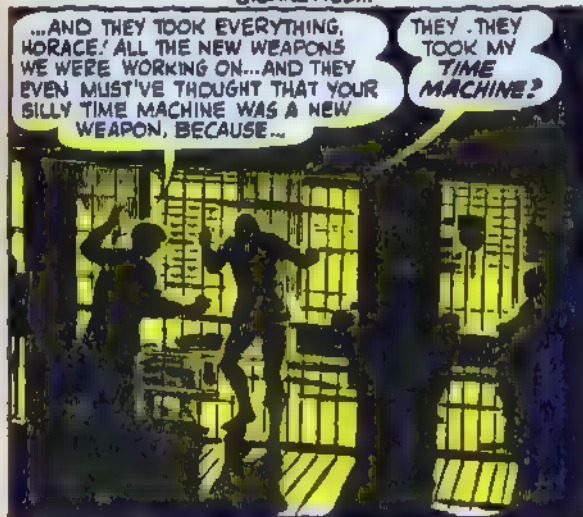
THE STALEMATE CONTINUES...AND THE WAR IS NOW 13 YEARS OLD! THE COMMANDER OF JUPITER WISHES HE NEVER STARTED THE WAR...



THAT'S WHAT COMMANDER KRUK MEANS, AND A FEW NIGHTS LATER, INFILTRATORS FROM JUPITER RAID THE EARTH'S SCIENTIFIC LABORATORIES!



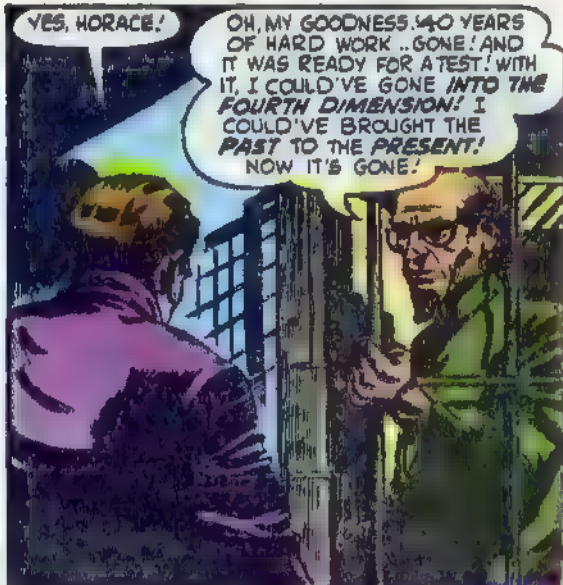
THE NEXT DAY HORACE GETS THE NEWS OF THE RAID FROM ONE OF HIS SCIENTIST FRIENDS WHO BRINGS HIM SOME CIGARETTES...



...AND THEY TOOK EVERYTHING, HORACE! ALL THE NEW WEAPONS WE WERE WORKING ON...AND THEY EVEN MUST'VE THOUGHT THAT YOUR SILLY TIME MACHINE WAS A NEW WEAPON, BECAUSE...

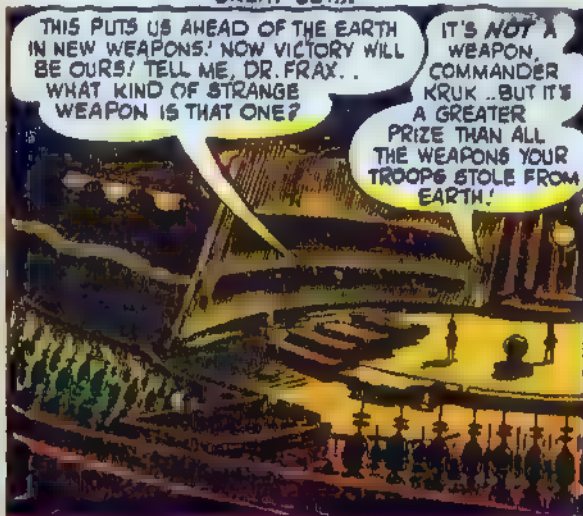
THEY TOOK MY TIME MACHINE?

YES, HORACE!



OH, MY GOODNESS! 40 YEARS OF HARD WORK...GONE! AND IT WAS READY FOR A TEST! WITH IT, I COULD'VE GONE INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION! I COULD'VE BROUGHT THE PAST TO THE PRESENT! NOW IT'S GONE!

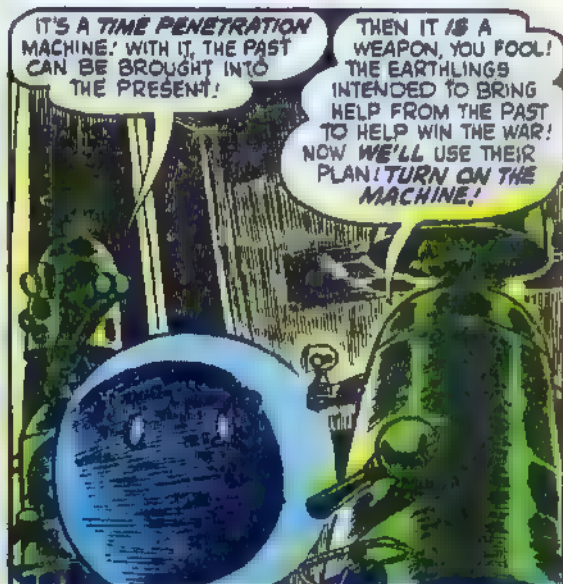
AND ON THE PLANET JUPITER, THE EARTH'S GREAT MYSTERY AND HORACE'S GREAT LOSS ADD UP TO GREAT JOY...



THIS PUTS US AHEAD OF THE EARTH IN NEW WEAPONS! NOW VICTORY WILL BE OURS! TELL ME, DR. FRAX... WHAT KIND OF STRANGE WEAPON IS THAT ONE?

IT'S NOT A WEAPON, COMMANDER KRUK...BUT IT'S A GREATER PRIZE THAN ALL THE WEAPONS YOUR TROOPS STOLE FROM EARTH!

IT'S A TIME PENETRATION MACHINE! WITH IT, THE PAST CAN BE BROUGHT INTO THE PRESENT!



THEN IT IS A WEAPON, YOU FOOL! THE EARTHLINGS INTENDED TO BRING HELP FROM THE PAST TO HELP WIN THE WAR! NOW WE'LL USE THEIR PLAN! TURN ON THE MACHINE!

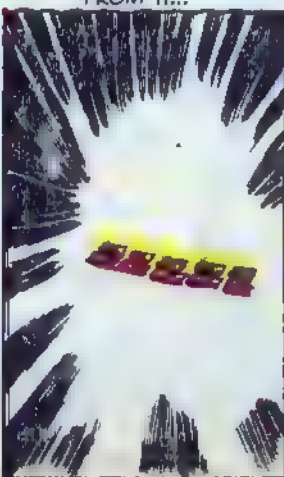
DR. FRAX TURNS THE DIALS...



HORACE'S 4-D MACHINE HUMS...IT SPITTERS...IT ROARS...



FLASHES OF LIGHT STAB FROM IT...



THE JUPITERIANS STARE IN AMAZED HORROR AT WHAT COMES OUT OF HORACE'S TIME MACHINE...



STOP IT! IN THE NAME OF JUPITER... TURN IT OFF!

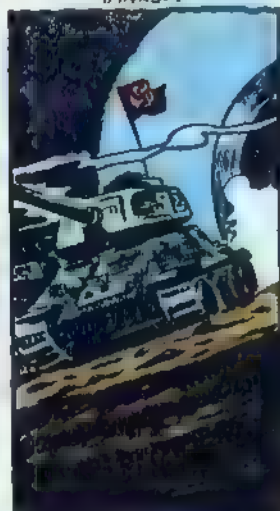
BUT IT'S TOO LATE! OUT OF THE TIME MACHINE COME INDIANS ON THE WARPATH.



AND THEY ARE FOLLOWED BY THE MURDERING HORDES OF GHENGIS KHAN..



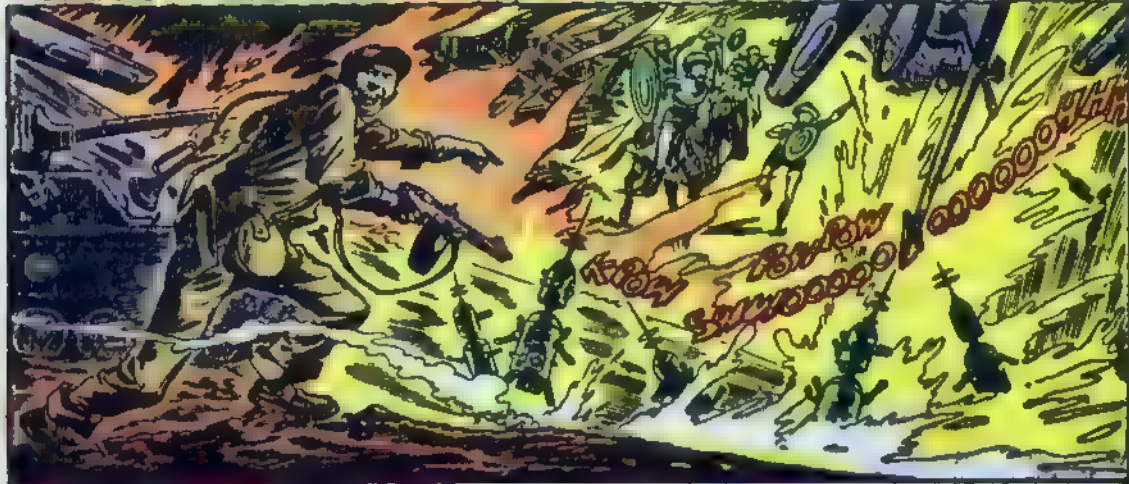
HITLER'S BLOODY BUTCHERS ROLL OUT IN THEIR PANZER TANKS..



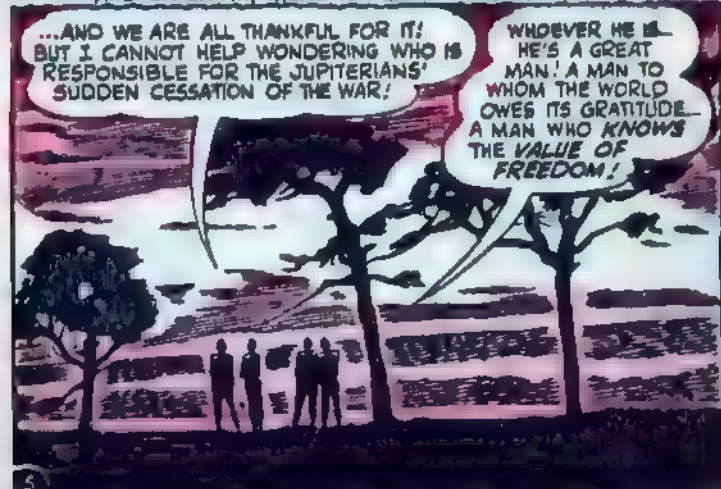
TINNY BUGLES BLOW AND CHINESE REDS CHARGE OUT



THE JUPITERIANS HAVE PENETRATED TIME...THE EARTH'S TIME AND PAST...AND ALL THE HORRORS OF THE EARTH'S DISTANT PAST COME POURING OUT OF HORACE'S 4-D MACHINE! ALL THE WARS...ALL THE CRIMES...ALL THE DISEASES...ALL THE FLOODS AND DISASTERS! EACH ONE OF THESE WAS DREAFFUL WHEN IT HAPPENED ON EARTH ONE AT A TIME...AND HERE ON JUPITER THEY ARE HAPPENING AGAIN...ALL AT THE SAME TIME!



AND ON EARTH, THERE IS PEACE ONCE AGAIN...



...AND WE ARE ALL THANKFUL FOR IT! BUT I CANNOT HELP WONDERING WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE JUPITERIANS' SUDDEN CESSATION OF THE WAR!

WHOEVER HE IS... HE'S A GREAT MAN! A MAN TO WHOM THE WORLD OWES ITS GRATITUDE... A MAN WHO KNOWS THE VALUE OF FREEDOM!



THE END

5



FOR THE BEST IN WEIRD STORIES LOOK FOR THE ATLAS SEAL ON THE COVER



...CONTINUED

reef deep beneath the surface. But then something strange was outlined through the murky waters . . . something that Victor could not understand. He signalled at the line to be let down just a little more, and the outline became gradually clearer. Directly in front of him was a cave . . . an endless mouth of darkness.

He was at the mouth of the black cave. He signalled for more line, and—with his hand tight on a knife in his belt—he propelled himself to just a little inside the cave. With horror, he saw the cause of all the terrible stories of the divers. Before he could signal, a giant, black octopus loomed up before him, and a long, wavering arm tightened around his waist. He slashed at the arm, and felt sick as the blade severed it.

The monster was maddened. The waters became wild with the octopus' fury, and it exuded a black, inky liquid into the water. Victor tried to signal once more, but the slashing arms did not permit him to do anything but try to stay clear of them. Mason felt weak, but through his tortured mind he thought of the black ink. Perhaps Kurt and the natives above had seen it, and would know of his danger. Just then, he felt a tug at the life-line. The others were aware of the peril below, and Vic breathed a silent prayer.

He felt weaker than ever as the tugging stopped. He didn't have time to look above, but he knew the octopus had snarled the lines in the reefs while thrashing around in the waters. His hopes were smashed.

He saw the creature coming toward him again. It looked like a shapeless mass of black slime, and Vic felt more helpless than he had ever felt in his entire life.

He thrust the knife again and again as the arms grasped his right leg and drew him thru the water, and he was stunned momentarily when he was thrown against a forma-



tion of rock. Somehow he managed to right himself even though he was knocked down again and again by the terrible monster.

Then it came. One of the octopus' tentacles reached out for his neck. The body was directly above him, and he could see the hideous eyes almost laughing at his helplessness. Blindly, he slashed again with the knife, not daring to open

his eyes, for fear another sight of the thing would make him give up all hope. Then suddenly, he felt a terrific pull from above. He only thought of the powerful tentacle that was holding his shoulders like a vise, and dared not think it could be help from above. He gave a final thrust of the knife, and blacked out.

As soon as he reached the surface, the brilliance of the sun brought him to consciousness and for a moment the faces of Kurt, and the three native guides swam before his eyes.

He thought "This has been a nightmare . . . it never really happened . . ." But as he looked at the sweating face of the native that had wished him well just before he had gone down, he realized it was real.

The native only pointed at Victor's shoulders, and seemed to be muttering, chanting prayers of thanks under his breath. Victor looked about him . . . the waters below were still . . . the monster was dead. And as Kurt helped him from the water, which was pitch black with the creature's ink, he felt something slip from around his neck and shoulders, and slide into the water.

Victor Mason could only stare as the severed arm of the dead octopus disappeared into the inky blackness.

THE END · A-315

JUST GOES TO SHOW YA...IT DOESN'T PAY TO INVENT TIME MACHINES THESE DAYS!
HERE'S A WEIRDIE THAT SHOULD SURPRISE YA! IF YOU CAN FIGURE OUT THE
ENDING TO THIS ONE, YOU CAN GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS!



HOW HIGH IS UP? DOES UP EVER END? IS UP
INHABITED? THOSE MYSTERIES AND MANY MORE PLAQUE
SCIENCE ABOUT THE REGIONS BEYOND MAN'S REACH!
THE RACE FOR SPACE PENETRATION IS ON...ALL JET
PLANE FACTORIES ARE BUILDING JETS THAT'LL GO
HIGHER THAN THE NEXT MAN'S! BUT THE MYSTERIES
STILL REMAIN... AND OUR IMAGINATIONS SOLVE THEM
BY RUNNING WILD ABOUT VISIONS OF... **UP!**

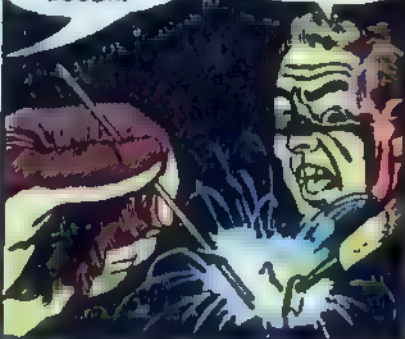
BUT I'M ONE GUY
WHO WON'T HAVE TO
USE MY IMAGINATION
ABOUT WHAT'S UP IN
SPACE...NOT AFTER
THIS INVENTION OF
MINE IS FINISHED!
WITH IT, I'LL BE ABLE
TO FLY HIGHER THAN
ANY MAN'S EVER
FLOWN BEFORE!

WHATTA YOU
MEAN YOU'LL
FLY HIGHER,
JOE? IT'S OUR
INVENTION! I
WANNA BE THE
FIRST MAN TO
PENETRATE
SPACE! WE'RE
PARTNERS IN
THIS!



SURE WE ARE,
MIKE...BUT YOU'RE
THE SILENT PARTNER.
REMEMBER? SO
KEEP YOUR TRAP
SHUT...I DID THE
BRAIN WORK ON
THIS BABY! ALL
YOU DID WAS
PUT UP THE
DOUGH!

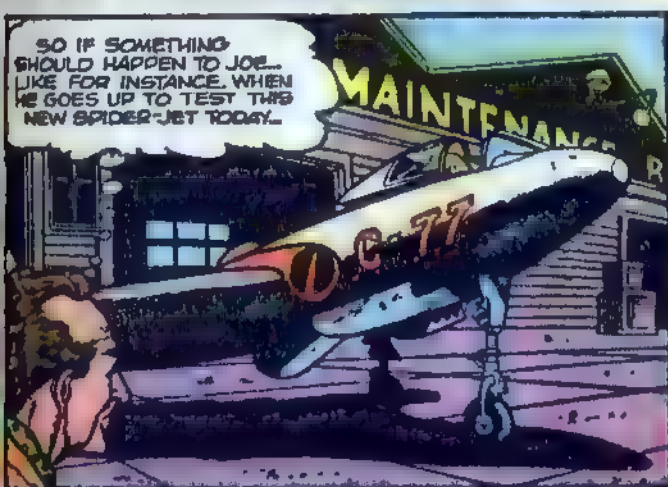
YEAH,
EVERY PENNY
I'VE MADE AS
A TEST PILOT...
BECAUSE YOU
SAID I'D BE
THE ONE TO
FLY THAT
GAGGET FIRST...
AND I WILL!



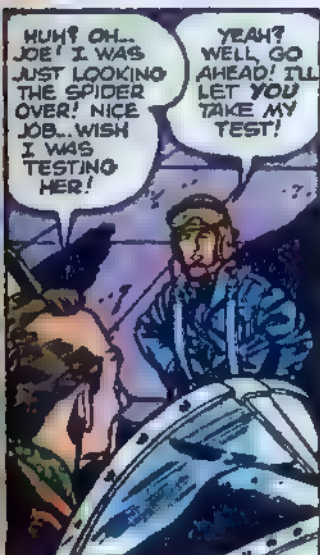
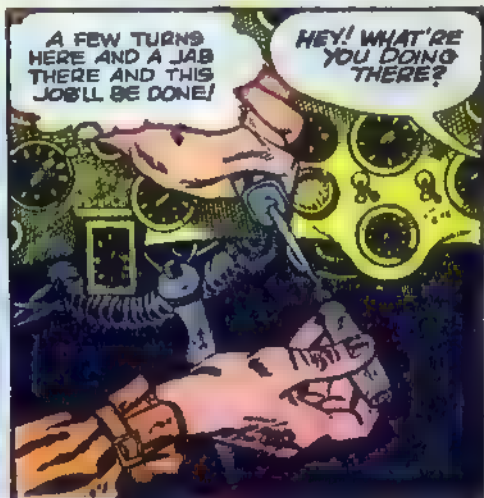
OVER MY
DEAD BODY
YOU WILL!



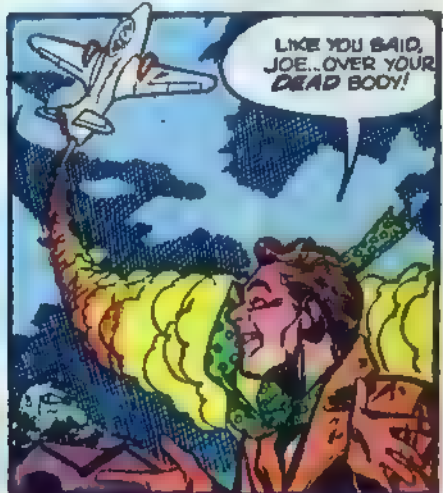
THE LAST CRACK OF JOE KIRK'S GIVES MIKE STORM AN IDEA THE NEXT DAY! MIKE KNOWS THAT HE AND JOE ARE THE TOP TEST PILOTS IN THE COUNTRY...AND THAT ONLY ONE OF THEM CAN FLY THE PLANE CARRYING JOE'S SPACE PENETRATION INVENTION...



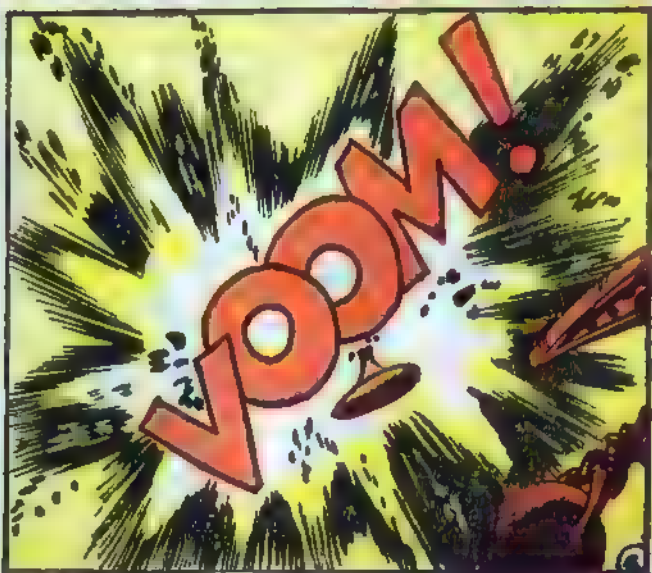
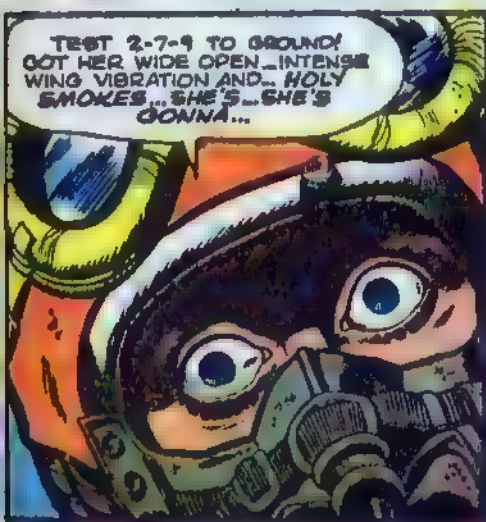
MIKE CARRIES OUT THE REST OF HIS THOUGHTS BY CLIMBING INTO THE COCKPIT AND GETTING BUSY WITH HIS SCREWDRIVER...



MIKE SMILES AS THE SPIDER SPITS ITS STREAM OF FIRE AND TAKES OFF... WITH JOE AT THE CONTROLS...



AT 40,000 FEET, JOE LEVELS OFF AND STARTS THE SPEED RUN...

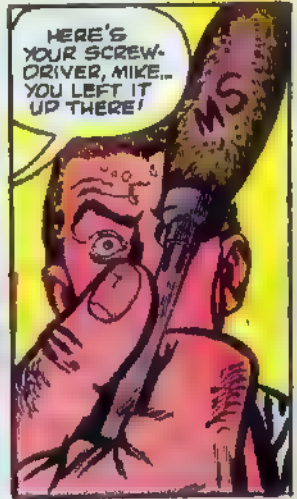
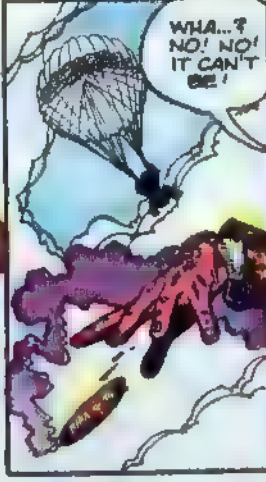


MIKE SEES THE BALL OF FIRE FROM THE GROUND AND HE TOSSES A SALUTE AT IT.

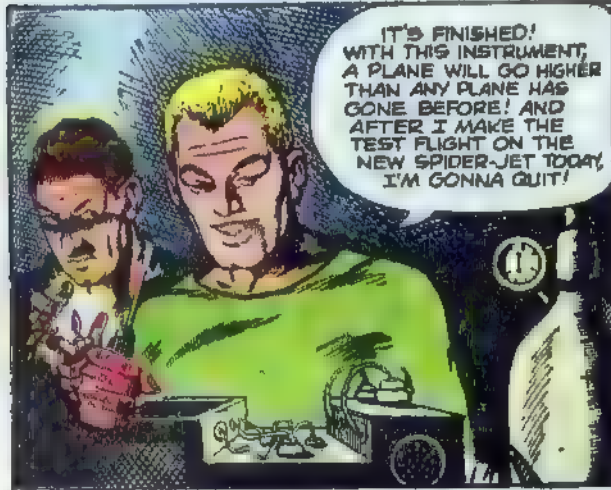
BUT HE DOESN'T SEE THE TINY FIGURE FALLING THRU SPACE LIKE A DEAD BODY.

HE DOESN'T SEE IT UNTIL THE CHUTE POPS OPEN A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE THE GROUND...

BUT IT IS...AND WHEN JOE LANDS, HE WALKS UP TO MIKE AND SAYS...

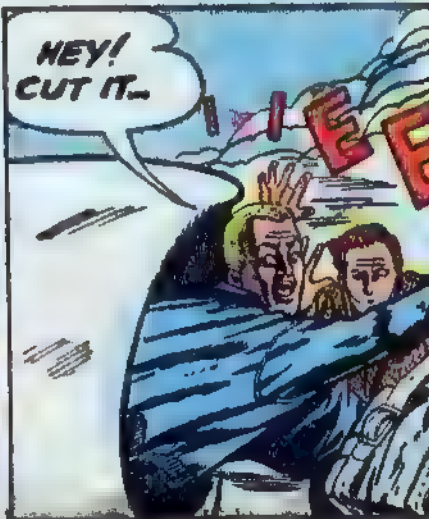
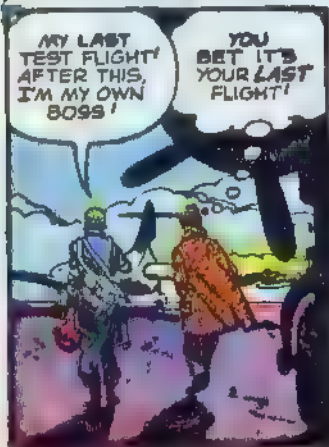


THOSE ARE THE LAST WORDS JOE SPEAKS TO MIKE FOR WEEKS...UNTIL ONE DAY JOE IS SO HAPPY, HE EVEN TALKS TO MIKE...



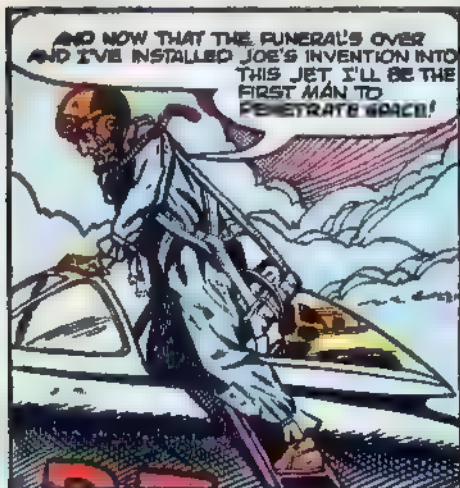
MIKE IS TOO CHOKED UP WITH ANGER AND ENVY TO SAY ANYTHING! BUT HE FOLLOWS JOE OUT ON THE FIELD WHERE THE ENGINEER IS WARMING UP THE SPIDER...

MIKE SHOVED JOE AGAINST THE JET'S POWERFUL AIR INTAKE...

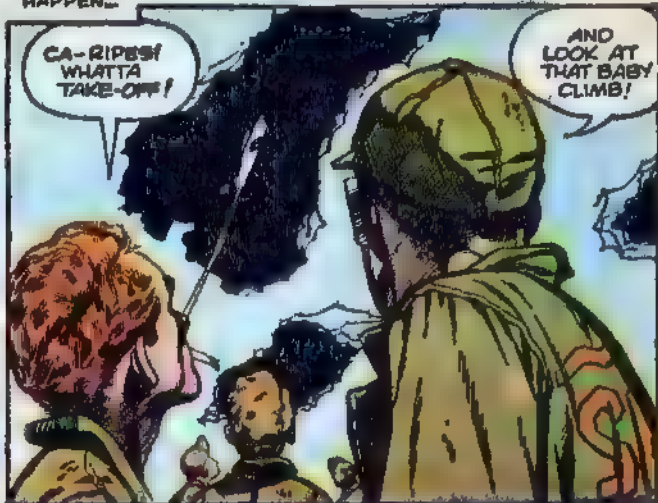


NOBODY HAS ANY REASON TO DOUBT MIKE'S STORY WHEN HE TELLS THEM IT WAS AN ACCIDENT...SO MIKE'S IN THE CLEAR...

MIKE TELLS THE GROUND AND RADIO CREW THAT IT'S ONLY A ROUTINE FLIGHT...BUT TO LISTEN IN, BECAUSE ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN...



AND NOW THAT THE FUNERAL'S OVER AND I'VE INSTALLED JOE'S INVENTION INTO THIS JET, I'LL BE THE FIRST MAN TO PENETRATE SPACE!



CA-RIPE! WHATTA TAKE-OFF!

AND LOOK AT THAT BABY CLIMB!

THE JET KEEPS GOING UP...UP...UP, AND MIKE BREAKS ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS FOR SPACE PENETRATION...

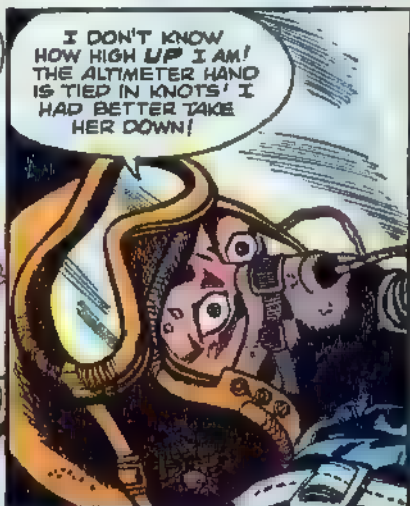


AND THIS ~~BIT~~ SCOOTER IS STILL CLIMBING!



CRIPES! I'VE LOST CONTACT! HE'S UP SO HIGH, EVEN RADIO BEAMS CAN'T REACH HIM!

AND THE PLANE KEEPS GOING UP...UP...UP...

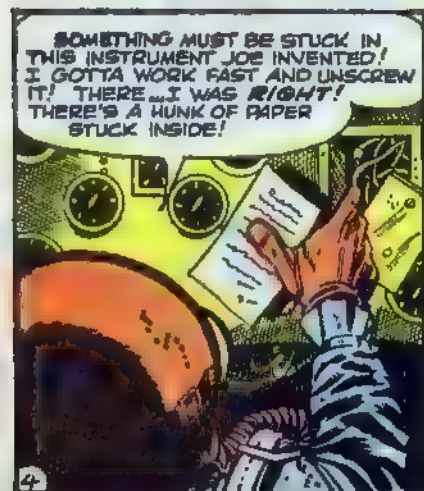


I DON'T KNOW HOW HIGH UP I AM! THE ALTIMETER HAND IS TIED IN KNOTS! I HAD BETTER TAKE HER DOWN!

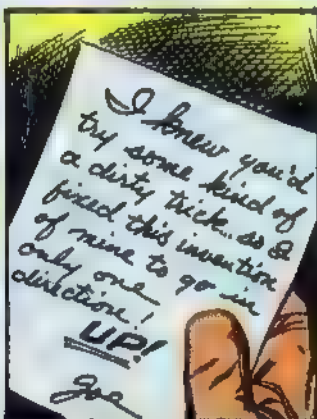
BUT WHEN MIKE TRIES TO NOSE THE JET DOWN, HE CAN'T! AND THE PLANE KEEPS ZOOMING UP...UP...UP!

MIKE REMOVES THE PAPER, BUT THE PLANE CONTINUES TO GO UP...UP...UP! MIKE SEES THE FAMILIAR HAND-WRITING ON THE PAPER, AND HE SOBS AS HE READS THE WORDS...

AND TO THIS DAY, MIKE IS SOMEWHERE IN THE SKY STILL GOING UP...UP...UP!



SOMETHING MUST BE STUCK IN THIS INSTRUMENT JOE INVENTED! I GOTTA WORK FAST AND UNSCREW IT! THERE...I WAS RIGHT! THERE'S A HUNK OF PAPER STUCK INSIDE!



I knew you'd try some kind of a dirty trick... so I fixed this invention of mine to go in only one direction! UP!

Joe



THE END

POOR MIKE! HE WANTED TO BE A HIGH FLIER... AND HE GOT HIS WISH... THE FOOL! FOR A CHANGE OF PACE, LET'S SEE WHAT'S COOKING IN THE JUNGLE! THESE GUYS HAVE A FORTUNE IN IVORY ON THEIR MINDS... BUT IT'S NOT AS EASY TO GET AS THEY THINK!

THE GRAVEYARD!

JUST OUR LUCK, DUGGER! THE FIRST CHANCE WE HAVE TO COLLECT **IVORY** AND THOSE CUNNING ELEPHANTS LOPE OFF INTO THE GAME RESERVATION!

YOU'RE CRAZY, REED, IF YOU THINK THAT A SIGN IS GOING TO KEEP ME FROM DROPPING ONE OF 'EM!

REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK
GAME RESERVE
HUNTING PROHIBITED

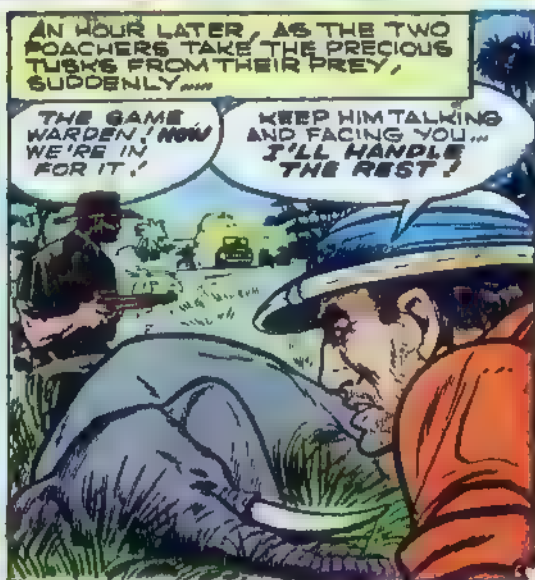
A
**MYSTERY
TALE**
TO SHOCK YOUR
SENSES!

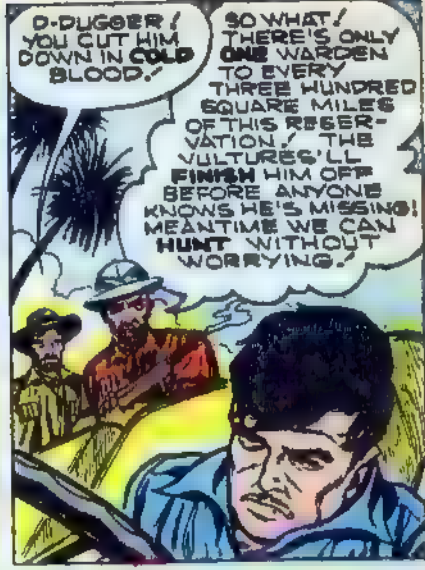
AND AS THE NOVY HUNTER'S POWERFUL GUN EXPLODES, A BULL ELEPHANT LURCHES FORWARD, DEAD...

AN HOUR LATER, AS THE TWO POACHERS TAKE THE PRECIOUS TUSKS FROM THEIR PREY, SUDDENLY...

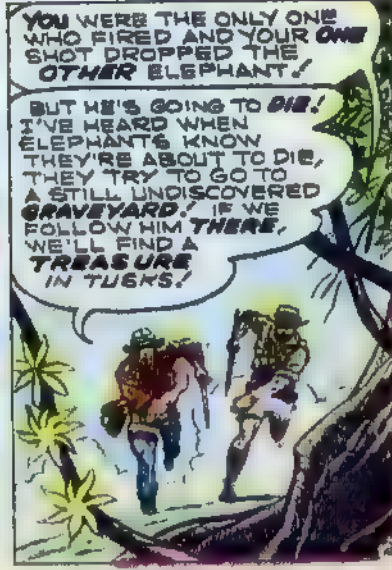
THE GAME WARDEN! NOW WE'RE IN FOR IT!

KEEP HIM TALKING AND FACING YOU... I'LL HANDLE THE REST!





DEEP INSIDE THE GAME PRESERVE, THE TWO HUNTERS ADVANCE, AND A RIFLE CRACKS WHERE THE JUNGLE BEASTS HAVE NEVER KNOWN THE TERROR OF MAN...



ALL DAY, THE IVORY HUNTERS FOLLOW THE WOUNDED GIANT ELEPHANT.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT LEGENDARY ELEPHANT GRAVEYARD STORY IS TRUE?

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT. HE CAN'T GO MUCH FURTHER, THE WAY HE'S LOSING BLOOD!



DUGGER! HE'S HEADING ACROSS THAT SWAMP.

LOOK WHAT'S AROUND HIM. SOMETHING WHITE. MAYBE TUSKS.



FEVERISHLY, DUGGER FOCUSES HIS BINOCULARS ON A GRIM SIGHT OF BLEACHED BONES.



BONES! IT'S THE ELEPHANT GRAVEYARD! WE'LL FIND ALL THE TUSKS WE CAN SELL! COME ON.



WHY DIDN'T ANYONE THINK OF IT BEFORE? WOUND AN ELEPHANT AND FOLLOW HIM TO THIS GRAVEYARD WHERE HE GOES TO DIE.

BECAUSE NO ONE'S AS CLEVER AS US. WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO WOUND THAT ELEPHANT.



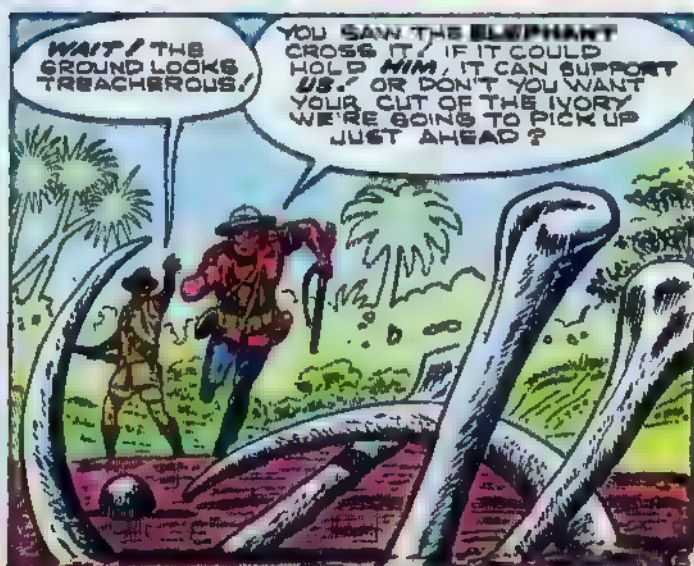
THE ELEPHANT... HE'S GONE!

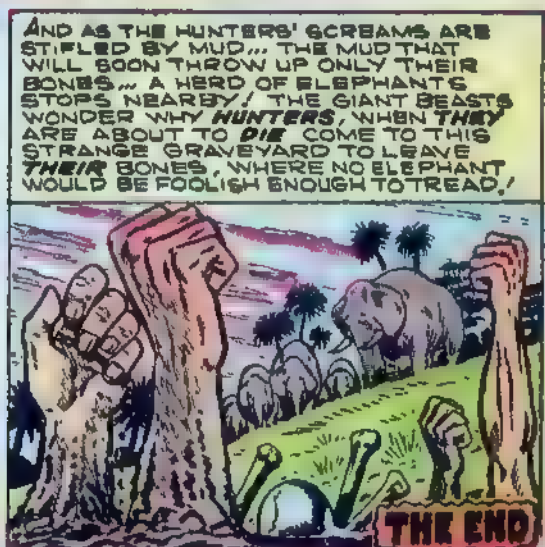
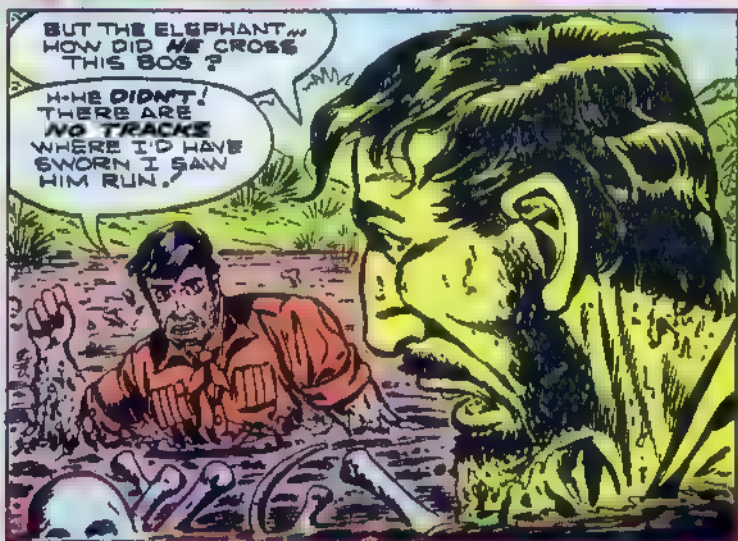
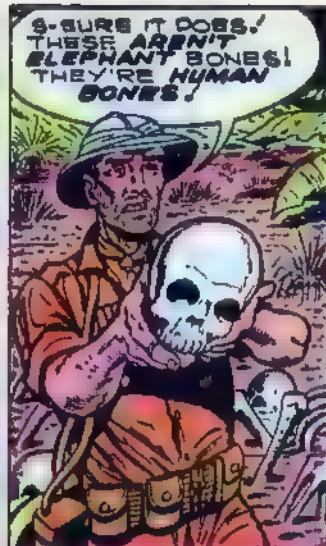
THAT'S FUNNY! HE VANISHED JUST AS SUDDENLY AS HE APPEARED. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER... HE LED US TO THE RIGHT PLACE.



WAIT! THE GROUND LOOKS TREACHEROUS.

YOU SAW THE ELEPHANT CROSS IT. IF IT COULD HOLD HIM, IT CAN SUPPORT US. OR DON'T YOU WANT YOUR CUT OF THE IVORY WE'RE GOING TO PICK UP JUST AHEAD?





HERE'S OUR GRAND FINALE! THE BLABBERMOUTH IS REALLY SPOUTING OFF, AND IF HE DOESN'T WATCH HIS STEP, HE'S GONNA TALK HIMSELF INTO A HEAP OF TROUBLE! THIS SHOULD TEACH YOU TO BUTTON UP YOUR UP CHUM!

MISSING PERSONS: WAVE OF DISAPPEARANCES BAFLE POLICE!

MYSTERY TALE
TO SHOCK YOUR SENSES!

unknown leaving no clues behind. "Missing! Whereabouts sioner Brady. Queries from frantic relatives referred to Bureau of Missing Person In an interview with Commissioner Brady today reporters were told that though the increasing amount of missing persons is alarming he is sure the cycle will pass. You may be suprised

PEOPLE DISAPPEAR FROM THEIR NORMAL WALKS OF LIFE FOR MANY REASONS! MOSTLY IT'S TO ESCAPE SOMETHING THEY CAN'T TOLERATE ANY MORE... RESPONSIBILITY, BILLS, A WIFE, A SWEETHEART, A JOB! BUT SOMETIMES THEY DISAPPEAR FOR ANOTHER REASON... A REASON THAT COULD MAKE EVEN YOU TURN UP MISSING...

HE CAME INTO THE BAR EVERY NIGHT AT THIS HOUR! IT WAS QUIET...MEN WERE HOME EATING SUPPER AND THE NIGHT CROWD HADN'T STARTED GOING OUT YET..



THE BARTENDER BROUGHT HIS DRINK AND HE STOOD THERE, SILENTLY TOASTING THE DYING DAY, LIKING THE QUIET THAT WAS ACCENTUATED BY THE BUZZ OF A BLUEBOTTLE FLY...



YES, IT WAS QUIET, EXCEPT FOR THE FLY AND THE QUERULOUS VOICE OF THE OLD BUM, WHO ALSO WAS ALWAYS HERE AT THIS HOUR, PAYING WITH CONVERSATION FOR THE BEER HE CADGED...



"BRING ME ANOTHER!"

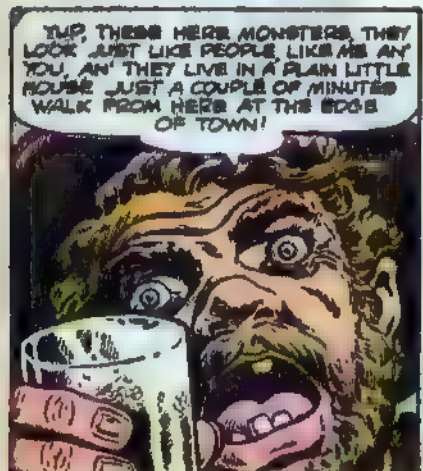
"COMIN' UP!"

THAT VOICE, WITH ITS WHISKEY HOARSENESS... MOST NIGHTS HE DIDN'T MIND IT, PAID NO ATTENTION TO IT, OR WAS AMUSED...



YUP, LIKE I SAID... THESE AIN'T JUST ORDINARY MISSIN' PEOPLE! THESE FOLKS'VE BEEN KIDNAPED! YUP, KIDNAPED BY MONSTERS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!

BUT TONIGHT THE VOICE GOT ON HIS NERVES! ALWAYS THE BUM HAD AN ANSWER FOR EVERYTHING... ALWAYS A HARTFETCHED, CRAZY ANSWER...



YUP, THESE HERE MONSTERS, THEY LOOK JUST LIKE PEOPLE LIKE ME AN' YOU, AN' THEY LIVE IN A PLAIN LITTLE HOUSE JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES WALK FROM HERE AT THE EDGE OF TOWN!

"AW, YOU'RE KIDN..."



IT'S GOSPEL TRUTH! THEY GET PEOPLE IN THAT HOUSE SOMEHOW AN' THEN THEY SEND 'EM TO THIS OTHER PLANET! THERE THEY'RE STUDIED LIKE BUGS IN A HOSPITAL, SO THESE HERE MONSTERS'LL KNOW WHAT MAKES US TICK WHEN THEY COME IN THEIR FLYIN' SAUCERS TO CONQUER THE EARTH!

"NUTS!"

"HUH?"



"DID YOU SAY SOMETHIN', MISTER?"

"I SAID, 'NUTS!' WHERE DID YOU GET SUCH A CRAZY STORY?"

"IT AIN'T CRAZY! I HEARD IT FROM A FRIEND WHO HANGS AROUND A SALOON NEAR THIS HERE HOUSE I WAS TELLIN' ABOUT!"



SO YOU HEARD IT FROM SOME OTHER BUM! ALWAYS IT'S 'A FELLER I KNOW KNOWS A GUY WHOSE COUSIN USED TO WORK FOR THIS FELLOW, AN' HE TOLD ME...' NUTS!"

LOOK, MISTER, THIS FRIEND, HE AIN'T GOT NO REASON TO LIE ABOUT IT! HE HAD A COUPLE TOO MANY DRINKS AN' HE FELL ASLEEP IN THE BUSHES NEAR THIS HOUSE AN' HE SAW AN' HEARD WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYIN'!





SURE, SECONDHAND INFORMATION FROM A BUM WHO WAS SO SOUSED, HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER HIS OWN NAME! IT'S TRAMPS LIKE YOU WHO SPREAD RUMORS THAT GET OTHER PEOPLE INTO TROUBLE!

TAKE IT EASY, PAL! THE GUY WAS JUST TALKIN'...



USUALLY HE HAD ONLY ONE DRINK! TONIGHT HE'D HAD THREE...THE LIQUOR BURNED IN HIM, TURNING HIM TRUCULENT...

TALKIN'! HE'S ALWAYS TALKIN'! NIGHT AFTER NIGHT HE'S TALKIN'...CRAZY TALK!

AW, LEAVE THE POOR GUY ALONE! HE DON'T MEAN NO HARM!



THAT KINDA TALK BRINGS HARM! I'M GONNA TEACH THIS GUY A LESSON! I'M GONNA MAKE HIM PUT UP OR SHUT UP! I'M GONNA MAKE HIM PROVE THAT STORY HE JUST TOLD! I'LL SHOW HIM HOW WRONG HE IS! THAT'LL SHUT HIM UP...FOR GOOD!



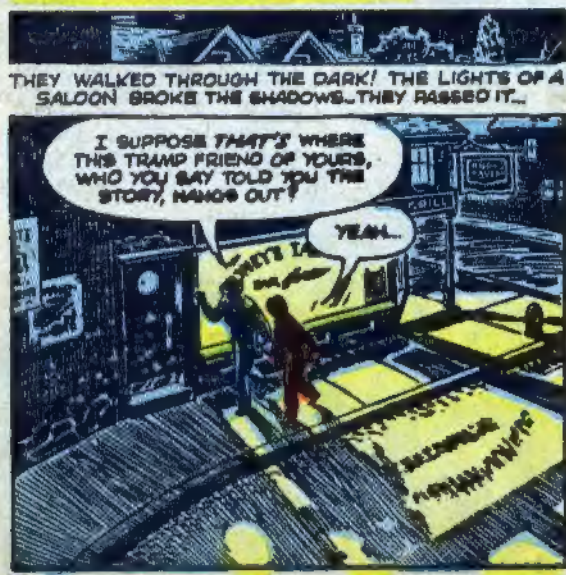
ALL RIGHT, SHOW ME THIS HOUSE! MONSTERS...CRIPES, HOW NUMS CAN YUH GET ON BEER?

LOOK, MISTER, LET'S FORGET THE WHOLE THING! I WAS ONLY TALKIN'.



YOU AN' YOUR TALKIN'! I'M GONNA STOP THAT TALKIN' OF YOURS! SHOW ME THAT HOUSE!

O.K., O.K. TAKE IT EASY. I'LL SHOW YUH!



THEY WALKED THROUGH THE DARK! THE LIGHTS OF A SALOON BROKE THE SHADOWS...THEY PASSED IT...

I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHERE THIS TRAMP FRIEND OF YOURS, WHO YOU SAY TOLD YOU THE STORY, HANGS OUT?

YEAH...



THERE'S THE HOUSE! NOW LET'S GET BACK.

OH NO YOU DON'T! ANYBODY CAN POINT TO A HOUSE AN' SAY "MONSTERS LIVE IN THERE! THEY KIDNAP PEOPLE AN' SEND 'EM TO ANOTHER WORLD!" ANYBODY, THAT IS, WHO'S GOT A CRAZY MIND AN' MOUTH LIKE YOURS! TELL ME, WISE GUY, HOW DO THEY SEND THESE PEOPLE THEY KIDNAP TO THIS OTHER PLANET?



THEY STOOD IN A TINY HALL FACING THE OLD COUPLE! THE BUM WAS TREMBLING! THE DOOR SLAMMED SHUT BEHIND THEM...





HE'S ALL RIGHT!
HE WON'T MAKE
ANY NOISE NOW!

HE ISN'T
MUCH OF A
SPECIMEN!



HE KNEW
SOMETHING!
I FIGURED
I'D BETTER
BRING HIM!

YOU'VE BEEN
DRINKING AGAIN!
YOU KNOW IT'S
ONE OF THE
THINGS YOU
MUSTN'T
DO!



YOU'LL LOSE
CONTROL, IF YOU
DRINK TOO MUCH!
YOU'LL RUIN
EVERYTHING!

ALL RIGHT,
ALL RIGHT!
I'LL BE BACK
IN A WHILE
WITH ANOTHER
ONE!



HE PUT HIS HAND OUT,
GRASPED THE DOORKNOB...
HE LOOKED AT HIS HAND...

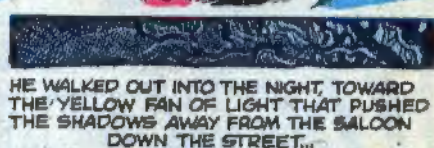
YEAH, HE WAS LOSING CONTROL! THE LIQUOR! HE HELD UP HIS HAND, MADE AN EFFORT, CONCENTRATED ON SHAKING THE LIQUOR DULLNESS FROM HIS MIND...



THAT'S BETTER! GOTTA
WATCH IT! GOTTA GET THAT
OTHER BUM NOW AND
SHIP HIM OUT!



GOT TO
STOP THESE
UGLY RUMORS...



HE WALKED OUT INTO THE NIGHT, TOWARD THE YELLOW FAN OF LIGHT THAT PUSHED THE SHADOWS AWAY FROM THE SALOON DOWN THE STREET...



THE END

BE SURE TO LOOK FOR THE NEXT, GREAT ISSUE OF **MYSTERY TALES** AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND! FROM COVER TO COVER, IT'S LOADED WITH THRILLS AND CHILLS!

**JUNIOR SPACE PILOTS
ON THE BEAM!**

GIVEN!

**BOYS! GIRLS!
LADIES!
MEN!**

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

**MAIL
COUPON**

Football,
Pocket
Watches,
etc.

Fishing Outfit,
Flashlight,
1000 Shot
Daisy Air Rifle

**ACT
NOW!**

WE ARE RELIABLE!

Cameras, Corn Poppers, Speedball
Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware,
Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail
coupon for SALVE and pictures to
start.

**ACT
NOW**

**BE
FIRST**

**LET'S
GO!**

**ACT
NOW!**

OUR 59th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL

I'M IN A HURRY TO GET
BACK TO OUR EARTH BASE,
PENNY, THE MAIL MAN'S BRING-
ING MY NEW CAMERA!

JUMPIN'
JUPITER!
YOU'RE SURE
SIZZLING TH'
OL' ROCKET
TODAY, TED!

I'VE EARNED A SWELL RADIO
AND A TELESCOPE TOO!
IT'S EASY SELLING TO
YOUR FRIENDS - AND YOU
GIVE 'EM THESE SWELL ART
PICTURES -

THAT'S
FOR ME!

SAY! THAT CAMERA
SURE IS SUPERSONIC!
YOU MUST HAVE
STRUCK A
URANIUM LODE!

DIDN'T COST
ME A DIME -
JUST GOT IT FOR
SELLING WHITE
CLOVERINE
BRAND
SALVE!

HURRY
AN' GET
DE-PRES-
SURIZED!

OUTTA MY JET TRAIL, MATES - I'M MAILING
THE COUPON FOR THAT BIG NEW
PREMIUM CATALOG NOW!

TRAINING BASE

88

**ACT
NOW!**

**LET'S
GO!**

**WE TRUST
YOU!**

**ACT
NOW!**

**LET'S
GO!**

**ACT
NOW!**

OUR 59th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL



OUR 59th YEAR
Alarm Clocks,
Pen & Pencil
Sets, etc.
Mail coupon.

**MAIL COUPON!
GET BIG CATALOG!**

Candid Cameras with carrying case,
Telescopes, Watches (sent postage
paid). SIMPLY GIVE pictures with
White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE
easily sold to friends, neigh-
bors, relatives at 35c a box
(with picture). Alarm Clocks, Pen
& Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Tele-
scopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware
Record Players, Movie Machines
(postage pd.). Rush cou-
pon to start!

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. B-148, Tyrone, Pa. Date _____
Gentlemen: Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pic-
tures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to
sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked
within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commis-
sion as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent
with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____
ST. _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____
TOWN _____ ZONE NO. _____ STATE _____
PRINT LAST NAME HERE _____
Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

